

Frederick County Ethics Commission Minutes for the Public Meeting of Wednesday, October 9, 2019

Present: Stephen K. Hess, Chair
Ernest A. Heller, Vice-Chair
M. Shane Canfield, Commission Member
Deidre R. Davidson, Commission Member
Dr. Anna Johnson-Winegar, Commission Member
Rev. Douglas P. Jones, Commission Member
Deborah L. Lundahl, Commission Member
James Stanker, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission meeting started at 7:00 p.m. on October 9, 2019, in the Winchester Room on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Discussion of financial disclosure statements – Before the meeting, the members of the Ethics Commission received and reviewed the annual financial disclosure statements filed by those County officials and employees who are subject to the Ethics Law's filing requirements. The more detailed financial disclosure statements submitted by the County Executive, County Council Members, Chief Administrative Officer, County Attorney, Division Directors and members of the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals were distributed to each Ethics Commission member. The shorter financial disclosure statements filed by the remaining officials and employees who are subject to the financial disclosure requirements were divided into alphabetical groupings. Each grouping was assigned to a single Commission member for an initial review.

At the meeting, the Commission members identified and discussed issues arising out of their reviews. There were a number of disclosure statements that were incomplete or required clarification. The Senior Assistant County Attorney was directed to contact the persons filing those disclosure statements to obtain the additional information needed. The Commission members also identified some potential conflicts of interest that required further contact with the officials, employees or board or commission members to obtain additional information.

Mr. Canfield noted that in the private sector, members of some boards are given notice of their organization's conflict of interest policy and asked to disclose and address any potential conflicts of interest. He suggested that such a policy be considered for members of County boards and commissions. Mr. Hess noted that this could be accomplished through an amendment of the Ethics Law. Rev. Jones suggested that this could be an issue to raise in the Ethics Commission's annual report to the County Executive and County Council.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Heller made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Stanker seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at approximately 8:10 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney